

[21st August 1925]

(e) whether it is a fact that the powers of the co-operative unions and of the honorary assistant registrar were usurped by these officials;

(f) whether complaints of actual interference by the officials of the department with the work of non-officials have been received;

(g) whether it is a fact that on many occasions respectable gentlemen connected with the management of co-operative societies working in the town of Ootacamund complained to the Registrar personally about the unwarranted interference of these officials; and

(h) what steps Government have taken to see that non-official help in the working of these societies is not repelled?

A.—(a) There are 78 societies in the Nilgiris plateau. Of these, 68 are exclusively for the hill tribes.

(b) The outstandings are considerable. The progress of the co-operative movement amongst hill tribes is necessarily slow, but the movement has not failed to confer benefits.

(c) The Government have no reason to think so.

(d) Non-official agencies have not yet come forward to undertake the work of organizing new societies.

(e), (f) & (g) No.

(h) Does not arise.

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—“Is it a fact that Rao Sahib Belli Gowder was Honorary Assistant Registrar for some time and when he was ill, advantage was taken by the department to entrust two unions in the Nilgiris, one to the village officer and the other to the village schoolmaster, as if public spirited men are not available there?”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—“Our information is that enough public spirited men are not available.”

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—“Since Mr. Belli Gowder resigned, Mr. Ari Gowder took up the place; but he too had to sever his connexion on account of differences with the departmental staff.”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—“No; on account of his having taken up a contract.”

The RAJA OF RAMNAD :—“May I know by what process has the hon. the Minister discovered that there are not enough public spirited men there?”

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—“May I know how many co-operative societies are there for the Adi-Dravidas in the Nilgiris district?”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—“I want notice. I have not got the figures just now.”

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—“Does the hon. the Minister know what is going on in his own department. . . .?”

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“The hon. Member has been warned yesterday and I think he should have taken the warning seriously. Surely there are other ways of putting the question.”

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—“Is it a fact that Mr. Davis, M.L.C., was dissatisfied with the attitude of the departmental staff towards non-officials and did he complain about it to Mr. Gray?”